

AMENDED IN SENATE JULY 14, 1998

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 16, 1998

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 13, 1998

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 23, 1998

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—1997–98 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1972

Introduced by Assembly Member Knox

February 17, 1998

An act to amend Section 33204.2 of, and to add Sections 33204.25 and 33204.27 to the Public Resources Code, relating to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1972, as amended, Knox. Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.

Existing law authorizes the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy to award grants, in accordance with prescribed procedures, to specified nonprofit organizations to carry out improvements, maintenance, acquisitions, or educational interpretation programs directly related to a project which the conservancy is authorized to carry out under the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Act.

This bill would authorize the conservancy to award grants to private educational institutions, and to local agencies and qualified nonprofit organizations, including local conservation corps, for a fire prevention and natural resource

protection program to protect lands that are ~~subject to conditions set forth in specified provisions of existing law owned or managed by the conservancy.~~ The bill would also authorize the conservancy to award grants to school districts and other local agencies for the same purposes, as prescribed.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares both
2 of the following:

3 (a) Partnerships between the conservancy and
4 nonprofit organizations for educational interpretation
5 and other programs authorized pursuant to Section
6 33204.2 of the Public Resources Code have been
7 successful in providing outdoor education and recreation
8 experiences to over 1,200,000 children and their families
9 in the greater Los Angeles metropolitan area since 1982.

10 (b) There is a need to expand those programs to
11 include partnerships with school districts and other local
12 agencies, as well as nonprofit organizations, in order to
13 better serve the residents who otherwise would not have
14 access to educational interpretation and other recreation
15 and nature programs within the mountainous areas
16 surrounding the greater Los Angeles metropolitan area.

17 SEC. 2. The Legislature also finds and declares that
18 there is significant documentation on the devastation to
19 both human and natural habitat by fires, and on the
20 economic impact of fires. A mainstay of fire prevention
21 is the brushing, or clearing, of properties owned by the
22 Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy that abut
23 residential communities. The Legislature further finds
24 that the City of Los Angeles has recently implemented
25 new ordinances, consistent with the ordinances of the
26 County of Los Angeles, which double the previous
27 brushing distance requirement. Local funding will cover
28 only a portion of the costs to carry out the increased
29 brushing distance requirements. The resulting funding
30 deficiency will result in significant risks to public safety

1 and an unfunded public liability if the City of Los Angeles
2 or the County of Los Angeles should decide to charge the
3 State of California as the owner of record for those costs.

4 SEC. 3. Section 33204.2 of the Public Resources Code
5 is amended to read:

6 33204.2. (a) The conservancy may award grants to
7 nonprofit organizations qualified as exempt
8 organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal
9 Revenue Code of 1954 (26 U.S.C. Sec. 501(c)(3)), and
10 private educational institutions to carry out
11 improvements, maintenance, acquisitions, or
12 educational interpretation programs that directly relate
13 to a project that the conservancy is otherwise authorized
14 to undertake pursuant to this division.

15 (b) Grants awarded pursuant to this section are
16 subject to the review and approval of the Department of
17 General Services. The conservancy shall not award a
18 grant under this section for a project that is not for the
19 purposes specified in subdivision (a). No nonprofit
20 organization may expend any portion of a grant to engage
21 in any activity not expressly authorized pursuant to
22 subdivision (a).

23 (c) The executive director shall submit a notice to the
24 Department of Finance 30 days prior to award of a grant
25 under this section. The notice shall specify the recipient
26 organization, the amount to be granted, and the purposes
27 for which the grant is awarded. The period for notice
28 under this subdivision may be concurrent with the review
29 of the Department of General Services under subdivision
30 (b).

31 SEC. 4. Section 33204.25 is added to the Public
32 Resources Code, to read:

33 33204.25. The conservancy may award grants to local
34 agencies or, pursuant to Section 33204.2, to qualified
35 nonprofit organizations, including local conservation
36 corps, to fund crews, supervisors, vans, and related
37 equipment for a fire prevention and natural resource
38 protection program to protect lands that are ~~subject to~~
39 ~~the conditions set forth in Section 33211.5.~~ *owned or*
40 *managed by the conservancy.*

1 SEC. 5. Section 33204.27 is added to the Public
2 Resources Code, to read:

3 33204.27. (a) The conservancy may award grants to
4 school districts and other local agencies for any of the
5 purposes for which it may award grants to nonprofit
6 organizations pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section
7 33204.2.

8 (b) Grants awarded to school districts pursuant to
9 subdivision (a) shall be subject to both of the following
10 conditions:

11 (1) The grants shall not include cash grants of state
12 funds.

13 (2) Grants permitting the use of facilities shall be
14 limited to facilities that are owned by the conservancy.

